

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the current title with the following title:

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACTIVE PURGING OF ~~PELLICE~~ PELLICLE
VOLUMES**

Please replace the current paragraph [0047] with the following paragraph [0047]:

[0047] FIGs. 5A, 5B and 6 are diagrams of example contacting flow barriers in purge devices, according to embodiments of the present invention. FIG. 5A is a diagram of a contacting flow barrier 500 positioned at a corner of base 101 at an end of high pressure region 144. Contacting flow barrier 500 includes an active finger 501. Active finger 501 is movable between a closed position 502 and an open position 506. When active finger 501 is in a closed position 502 it touches or nearly touches pellicle frame 220 during active purging. In this way active finger 501 provides a physical barrier to prevent side leakage from pellicle frame 220 and/or gap region 146 during active purging. Base 101 further includes ~~at a~~ recess for receiving active finger 501 when it is in the open position (also called the default position) when active purging is not being performed.

Please replace the current paragraph [0048] with the following paragraph [0048]:

[0048] FIG. 5B is a diagram of a contacting flow barrier 510 positioned at a corner of base 101 at an end of low pressure region 148. Contacting flow barrier 510 includes an active finger 511. Active finger 511 is movable between a closed position 512 and an open position 516. When active finger 511 is in a closed

position 512 it touches or nearly touches pellicle frame 220 during active purging.

In this way active finger 511 provides a physical barrier to prevent side leakage from pellicle frame 220 and/or gap region 146 during active purging, and is especially helpful when a vacuum connection is present. Purging gas flows efficiently from low pressure region 148 out through ports 525 to exit as vacuum exhaust 155. Base 101 further includes ~~at a~~ recess for receiving active finger 511 when it is in the open position (also called the default position) when active purging is not being performed and a vacuum seal is off.

Please replace the current paragraph [0053] with the following paragraph [0053]:

[0053] Pressure balance plate 714 has a series of holes 702 formed therethrough. In embodiments, holes 702 can be distributed evenly or unevenly across pressure balance plate ~~814-714~~ depending on a particular gas flow and pressure distribution desired across pressure balance plate 714. Holes 702 can have the same or different diameters. Holes 702 can also have a orientation which is perpendicular with respect to pressure balance plate 714 or it can be angled in one or more different angles depending on a particular flow direction that is desired. During active purging, purging gas 150 flows through enclosed pellicle volume 132 along purging flow direction 152. Purging gas 750 is provided in central plenum 724 below pressure balance plate 714. In this way, purging gas 750 can flow through holes 702 and provide a balancing pressure to pellicle 131 of reticle-pellicle assembly 130. This further serves to reduce or eliminate displacement forces across pellicle 131 that might damage or rupture pellicle 131.

Please replace the current paragraph [0056] with the following paragraph [0056]:

[0056] FIG. 8 shows a cross-sectional view of purge device 800 having a base 801 with a height adjustable pressure balancing mechanism, according to a further embodiment of the present invention. Base 801 includes first and second support members 832, 834 for supporting flow resistance plates 712, 716 respectively. Base 801 further includes height adjustable supports 842, 844 for supporting pressure balancing plate 714 according to a further feature of the present invention. Supports 842 and 844 have an adjustable height. As result, the location of pressure balancing plate ~~814~~714 relative to pellicle surface 131 can be adjusted by varying the height of support members~~1042~~842,~~1044~~844. This is especially helpful when actively purging a flexible pellicle or sets of pellicles with varying flexibility. Depending on the particular type of material used in pellicle 131, pellicle 131 may stretch or be displaced during active purging. Such stretching or displacement can occur satisfactorily within a tolerance range of the pellicle 131 but still be undesirable if contact is made with plate 714. According to this feature, the location of pressure balancing plate 714 is adjusted by varying the heights of supports 842, 844 so that pellicle 131 does not contact plate 714. In this way, as shown in FIG. 8, the location of pressure balancing plate 714 can be adjusted to accommodate displacements in pellicle 131 during active purging.

Please replace the current abstract with the following abstract, marked-up and included on a separate sheet as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.72: